

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 01044 111720Z

43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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P R 111600Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 436

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, JM, CS, OAS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ODUBER'S VISIT TO JAMAICA

REFERENCE: KINGSTON 0914

1. COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT ODUBER TOLD PRESS AT CONSLUSION ONE-DAY VISIT TO JAMAICA MARCH 10 THAT A COSTA RICAN TRADE AND TECHNICAL MISSION WILL COME TO JAMAICA LATER THIS YEAR TO FOLLOW-UP ON HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER MANLEY. IT WILL EXAMINE POSSIBILITIES OF COMMERCIAL EXCHANGE OF FOODSTUFFS AND INDUSTRIAL GOODS.

2. COSTA RICA IS INTERESTED IN SUPPLYING JAMAICA WITH BEEF AND DAIRY PRODUCTS, AND IS HOPING TO USE TECHNOLOGY WHICH IS AVAILABLE IN JAMAICA TO EXPLOIT ITS BAUXITE RESERVES. PRESIDENT ODUBER ALSO SAID HE WANTS JAMAICAN ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING HIS COUNTRY'S TOURIST INDUSTRY.

3. THE TRADE MISSION WILL EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF AN AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT WHICH WILL ALLOW AIR JAMAICA AND LACSA TO FLY BETWEEN KINGSTON AND SAN JOSE. THE PRESIDENT HOPED SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD PROVIDE A CLOSER LINK BETWEEN THE 15,000 JAMAICAN

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PAGE 02 KINGST 01044 111720Z

FAMILIES LIVING IN COSTA RICA AND THEIR HOMELAND.

4. ODUBER DESCRIBED THE OAS AS "OBSOLETE" AND "OUT OF DATE". ITS RULES AND PROCEDURES HAD TO BE BROUGHT UP TO DATE AS IT WAS STILL IMPORTANT AS A FORUM FOR THE VOICES OF THE SMALLER COUNTRIES OF THE HEMISPHERE. ASKED IF SELA WOULD EVENTUALLY REPLACE THE OAS, THE PRESIDENT SAID BOTH ORGANIZATIONS WERE COMPLIMENTARY. HE DOUBTED THAT SELA WOULD SUPERCEDE THE OAS, AS THE NEWER ORGANIZATION WAS ESSENTIALLY ECONOMIC, WHILE THE OAS WAS STRONGLY POLITICAL.

5. ACCORDING TO THE BRIEF COMMUNIQUE WHICH WAS ISSUED, NAMUCAR, SELA, THE DEVELOPMENT OF CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE ENGLISH SPEAKING CARIBBEAN AND THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS THE PERSPECTIVE OF BOTH COUNTRIES ON VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, WERE AMONG THE TOPICS DISCUSSED. PRESIDENT ODUBER INVITED PRIME MINISTER MANLEY TO VISIT COSTA RICA, AND HE ACCEPTED. THE PRESS QUOTES INFORMED SOURCES AS SAYING THAT THEY DOUBTED THE VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR.

6. COMMENT: PRESIDENT ODUBER CARRIED THE JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE. MANLEY ONLY DELIVERED A FEW PLATITUDES ABOUT WORKING FOR CLOSER RELATIONS AND EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR COSTA RICA AS "...A MODEL OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST APPROACH." MANLEY'S SUBDUED PERFORMANCE LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE VISIT WAS AN ODUBER INITIATIVE, AND THAT WHILE HE RECEIVED A POLITE RECEPTION, IT WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC. GERARD

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